

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application.

Listing of Claims:

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) An implantable device to be used in ~~the-a~~ human and/or animal body for ~~occluding or at least~~ partially occluding defect openings, hollow spaces or organ tracts or for creating a defined connecting opening between two walls, organs and hollow spaces in a ~~said~~ body, comprising[;]

a support structure having a primary shape ~~which has~~ having a first length-to-width ratio along an axis in a first operating state and having a secondary shape having a second length-to-width ratio along said axis in a second operating state wherein said first length-to-width ratio is greater than said second length-to-width ratio,

the support structure having ~~two ends~~, a proximal portion, an intermediate portion, ~~and~~ a distal portion and a surface,

the support structure ~~being formed from a single wire like element, having two ends, by intercoiling and/or intertwining and/or interweaving in the manner of comprising a single intertwined, inter-coiled wire-like element having two ends having a tissue and/or scrim and/or net structure.~~

wherein the proximal portion and/or distal portion in the secondary shape is substantially flat in a disk shape or ring shape or at least bent round in ~~the an edge area of said proximal portion~~ or bent back toward the other of the distal or proximate portion or bent outward from ~~an~~

said intermediate portion connecting the distal and proximal portions, so that a delimited inner space is formed, said inner space including an opening, wherein said two ends of said wire-like element are both arranged at one end of said support structure or are integrated into the surface of the support structure.

41. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion of the support structure in the secondary shape are placed flat and partially on top of one another so that an occlusion or partial occlusion of openings delimited laterally by said two walls, especially in the area of valve flaps, is permitted in the human or animal body.

42. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein at least a partial area of the implantable device is designed folded in or is able to be folded in.

43. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein, in the secondary shape of the support structure, a central through-opening remains in the implantable device for partial occlusion of an opening.

44. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein a through-opening provided inside the implantable device is arranged eccentrically therein.

45. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the

proximal portion and the distal portion are of disk-shaped configuration with an intermediate portion arranged between them, the intermediate portion having a reduced diameter compared to the proximal portion and/or distal portion, and the through-opening provided inside the implantable device being arranged eccentrically therein.

46. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the dimensions and shape of the implantable device, of a through-opening inside the implantable device and/or of the edge of the implantable device are selected or adjusted specifically to ~~the an~~ area of application of the device within said body.

47. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein at least one portion of the support structure in the primary and/or secondary shape is asymmetrically and/or irregularly configured.

48. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 47, wherein ~~the concentration and/or the thickness of~~ said wire-like element of the support structure has a thickness and a concentration of material and said thickness and concentration of material is different across the implantable device from distal portion to proximate portion.

49. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 48, wherein said partial areas of the support structure includes partial areas which are formed from a single wire-like element having different diameters, or wherein partially different diameters of the wire-like element of the support structure are formed by provision of several wires.

50. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40 ~~48~~, wherein said the amount concentration of material of said wire-like element in the edge area of the implantable device is adapted to the desired mechanical properties, in particular provides a concentration of wire like element being provided in the edge area of the device for partial stiffening.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the end of the proximal portion is open or partially closed or completely closed, ~~in particular~~ by provision of a plate element.

53. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the end of the distal portion and/or proximal portion has one or more hoops or loops which are interlocked and/or arranged alongside one another and/or interlaced, ~~in particular~~ with a substantially uniform edge being formed.

54. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the support structure is designed as a two-part or multi-part unit connected to one another to form one part and formed from a single wire-like element.

55. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 54, wherein the individual parts of the two-part or multi-part unit of the support structure are designed uniformly, corresponding to one another ~~or differing from one another~~.

56. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the support structure of the implantable device in the primary shape is configured like a stent.

57. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 51 wherein the ends of the wire-like element are connected ~~or can be suitably connected~~ to one another, ~~in particular by attachment of a further element, by twisting, adhesive bonding, welding, soldering, or another connection method.~~

58. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein one or more membranes or membrane-like or membrane-forming structures are incorporated into the support structure or applied to it.

59. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein the membrane-forming structure is formed by interweaving of at least one filament, the filament made of a flexible weavable material, a plastic, a renewable raw material or metal, or one or more Dacron filaments and/or carbon fibers.

60. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein the

membrane-forming structure is made of a material with a cross section differing from that of the wire-like element or comprises a braid, scrim or weave with filaments of different diameter.

61. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein the membrane-like structure is formed by dipping the support structure into a film-forming material[.] of a natural or synthetic polymer formed from one or more monomers by polyaddition, polymerization or polycondensation.

62. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein the membrane-like structure or membrane is formed from a weave, scrim or other textile and is provided in said edge area with protruding arms for threading and/or securing on the support structure, ~~by sewing, adhesive bonding, welding, crimping, or another securing method.~~

63. (Previously Presented) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein the membrane and membrane-like or membrane-forming structure is arranged proximally, distally or substantially centrally in the support structure.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the wire-like element of the support structure is chemically and/or mechanically treated in at least

a partial area, by etching, electropolishing, microgrinding or otherwise.

66. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the wire-like element of the implantable device is made of a ~~biocompatible material, such as a~~ metal or a metal alloy, a high-grade steel, ~~or~~ a plastic, ~~such as polycarbonate,~~ or a shape-memory material ~~such as nitinol.~~

67. (Currently Amended) A positioning system, for an implantable device as claimed in claim 40, comprising an advancing element, a guide wire and/or inner mandrel and at least one retaining wire, the guide wire and the at least one retaining wire ~~being used for~~ cooperating with said proximal end of the implantable device, ~~and wherein the~~ implantable device being ~~being-is~~ transformable from a said primary shape into a said secondary shape ~~and vice versa~~ by moving the at least one retaining wire and the guide wire relative to the advancing element.

68. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 67, wherein said retaining wire is threaded ~~or can be threaded~~ through one or more loops or hoops at the end of the proximal portion of the implantable device and are connected ~~or can be~~ connected to the guide wire and/or inner mandrel.

69. (Previously Presented) The positioning system as claimed in claim 67, wherein a chain of retaining wire loops is formed which is threaded or can be threaded through one or more loops or hoops at the end of the proximal portion and/or distal portion of the support

structure.

70. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 67, wherein said guide wire and an extraction wire are provided for extracting the implantable device from the implantation site in a human or animal body, the extraction wire ~~being able to be made~~ into ~~in~~ a loop or hoop and ~~able to be~~ threaded through at least one hoop or loop at one end of said proximal or distal portions of the support structure.

71. (Currently Amended) A positioning system, for an implantable device as claimed in claim 40, ~~with~~ comprising an advancing element, with an auxiliary structure having a primary shape having a first length-to-width ratio along an axis in a first operating state and having a secondary shape having a second length-to-width ratio along said axis in a second operating state and a proximal and distal end for aiding the deployment of the proximal portion of the support structure of the implantable device, and with at least one connection device for connecting the proximal end of the implantable device and the distal end of the auxiliary structure, wherein said first length-to-width ratio is greater than said second length-to-width ratio.

72. (Previously Presented) The positioning system as claimed in claim 71, wherein the connection device has at least one retaining wire.

73. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 72, wherein the at least one retaining wire is threaded ~~or can be threaded~~ through one or more loops or hoops of

said intercoiled support structure at said proximal end and/or said distal end of the auxiliary structure.

74. (Withdrawn) A method for producing an implantable device as claimed in claim 40, characterized by the following steps:

- coiling a support structure basic coil shape from a wire-like element by intercoiling and/or intertwining and/or interweaving in the manner of a tissue and/or scrim and/or net,
- annealing the support structure basic coil shape in order to stabilize the shape,
- forming the support structure from the basic coil shape into a desired secondary shape, and
- annealing the support structure secondary shape in order to stabilize and imprint the shape.

75. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 74, characterized in that the first coiling step is done by hand.